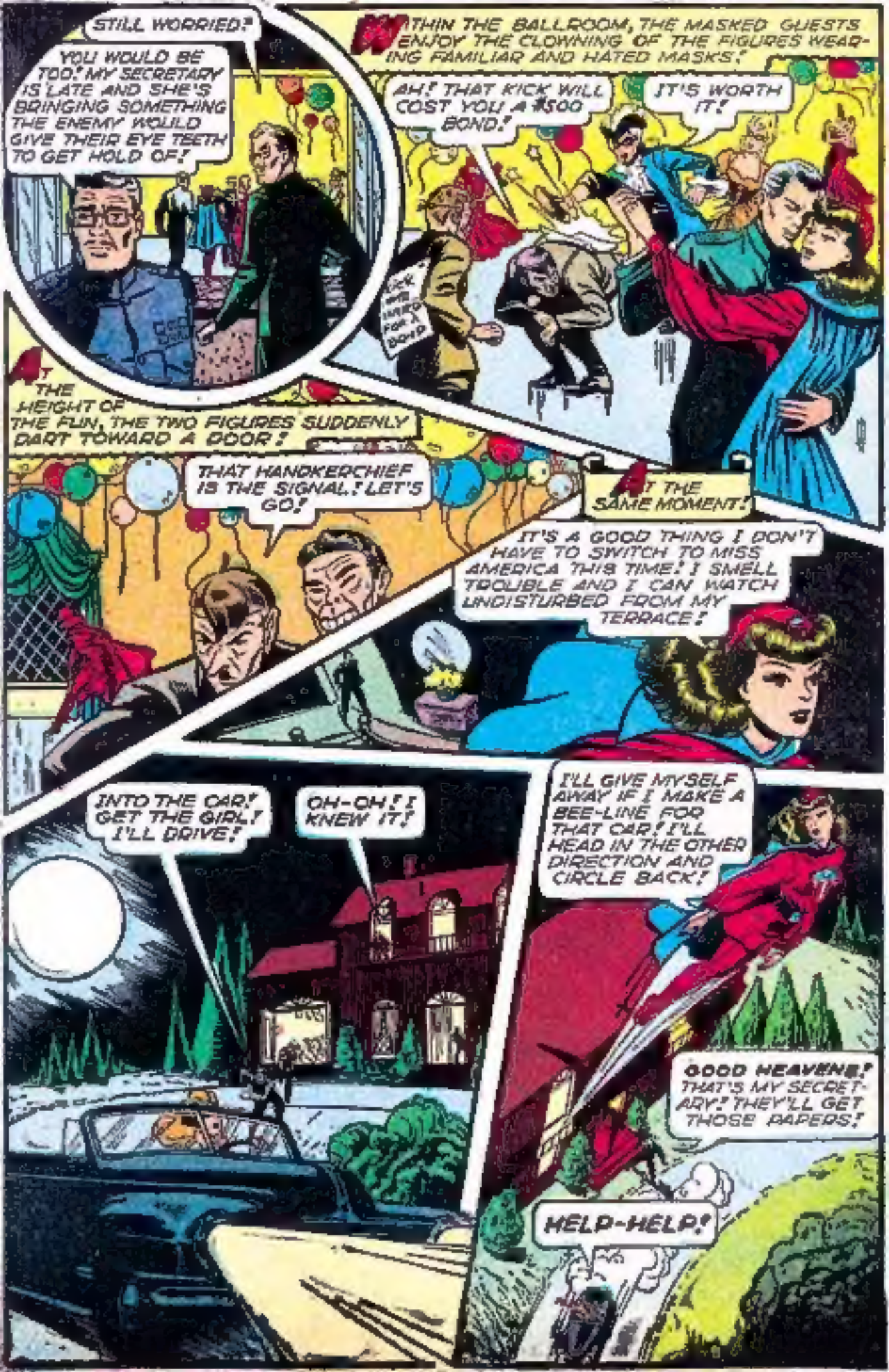
MARVEL
MYSTERY COMICS
APRIL
NO. 54
10¢
TRUTH GAS
SCHOMBURG

Miss
AMERICA
"MASKED MURDER!"
A MASQUERADE AND "BOND" BALL IN THE MANSION OF JAMES BENNET, MADELINE'S UNCLE AND GUARDIAN!
WHY... THAT'S THE FAMOUS MISS AMERICA!
NOT QUITE! THAT'S THE COSTUME MY NIECE, MADELINE CHOSE TO WEAR TONIGHT!
YOU SHOULD WIN FIRST PRIZE IN THAT OUTFIT!
I WILL! AND BUY A BOND WITH THE MONEY!
MAY I PRESENT LT. HARDING?


STILL WORRIED?
YOU WOULD BE TOO! MY SECRETARY IS LATE AND SHE'S BRINGING SOMETHING THE ENEMY WOULD GIVE THEIR EYE TEETH TO GET HOLD OF!
WITHIN THE BALLROOM, THE MASKED GUESTS ENJOY THE CLOWNING OF THE FIGURES WEARING FAMILIAR AND HATED MASKS.
AH! THAT KICK WILL COST YOU A $500 BOND!
IT'S WORTH IT!
KICK ME! I'M GOOD FOR A BOND
AT THE HEIGHT OF THE FUN, THE TWO FIGURES SUDDENLY DART TOWARD A DOOR!
THAT HANDKERCHIEF IS THE SIGNAL! LET'S GO!
AT THE SAME MOMENT!
IT'S A GOOD THING I DON'T HAVE TO SWITCH TO MISS AMERICA THIS TIME! I SMELL TROUBLE AND I CAN WATCH UNDISTURBED FROM MY TERRACE!
INTO THE CAR! GET THE GIRL! I'LL DRIVE!
OH-OH! I KNEW IT!
I'LL GIVE MYSELF AWAY IF I MAKE A BEE-LINE FOR THAT CAR! I'LL HEAD IN THE OTHER DIRECTION AND CIRCLE BACK!
GOOD HEAVENS! THAT'S MY SECRETARY! THEY'LL GET THOSE PAPERS!
HELP-HELP!

A FEW MINUTES LATER, AS THE CAR TEARS AROUND A MOUNTAINS, IT COMES TO A SUDDEN STOP AS THE FEARSOME FIGURE OF MISS AMERICA ZOOMS DOWN IN ITS PATH!
IT'S MISS AMERICA!
O.K., GATS! THIS IS THE LAST STOP!
AS ONE OF THE PANICKED THUGS CLIMBS OVER THE UNCONSCIOUS GIRL, HIS SLEEVE CATCHES ON HER MASK!
THEY THINK THEY CAN GET AWAY! WELL, I'LL GATHER THEM UP, ONE BY ONE!
I'LL GET THE ONE WITH THE MASK HANGING FROM HIS SLEEVE!
O.K., WORM! YOU'RE NUMBER ONE! HEY! THE CAR! IT'S ROLLING TOWARD THE EDGE AND THE GIRL'S IN IT!
DROPPING THE TERRIFIED THUG WHO SCAMPERS AWAY, MISS AMERICA ZOOMS IN AN ARC IN FRONT OF THE TOPPLING CAR!
POW! THE FRONT WHEELS ARE GOING OVER!

AND MISS AMERICA PUSHES THE CAR BACK ON THE ROAD JUST IN TIME!
WHEW! THAT WAS CLOSE! NOW TO SEE IF THE GIRL'S O.K., AND THEN GET AFTER THOSE MUGS!
THE MASK! THEY GOT MY MASK! IT HELD IMPORTANT PAPERS! NAVY SECRETS!
SO! THAT'S WHAT THEY WERE AFTER!
A FEW MINUTES LATER, MISS AMERICA, AFTER SWIFTLY SCOUTING THE AREA, SPOTS HER QUARRY!
THERE THEY GO INTO THAT OLD HOUSE!
ARMED GUARD'S AND EVERYTHING! WE'LL TAKE OUT THE INTERFERENCE AND SEE WHAT'S INSIDE!
IT'S A GIRL!
OUT OF MY WAY, RATS!
QUICKLY MAKING HER WAY UPSTAIRS, MISS AMERICA LISTENS OUTSIDE A DOOR!
THOSE RATS DON'T LOOK ANY BETTER WITHOUT THOSE MASKS!
AND INSIDE THE ROOM!
IT'S TRUE! SHE FLIES!
QUIET--OR I--VOT IS DOT ON YOUR SLEEVE?
IN HIS FURY, THE NAZI LEADER RIPS THE MASK TO SHREDS!
THE U-BOAT ISS VAITING OFF SHORE FOR DED INFORMATION, UND YOU BRING BACK A MASK!
LOOK! A PAPER FELL OUT!
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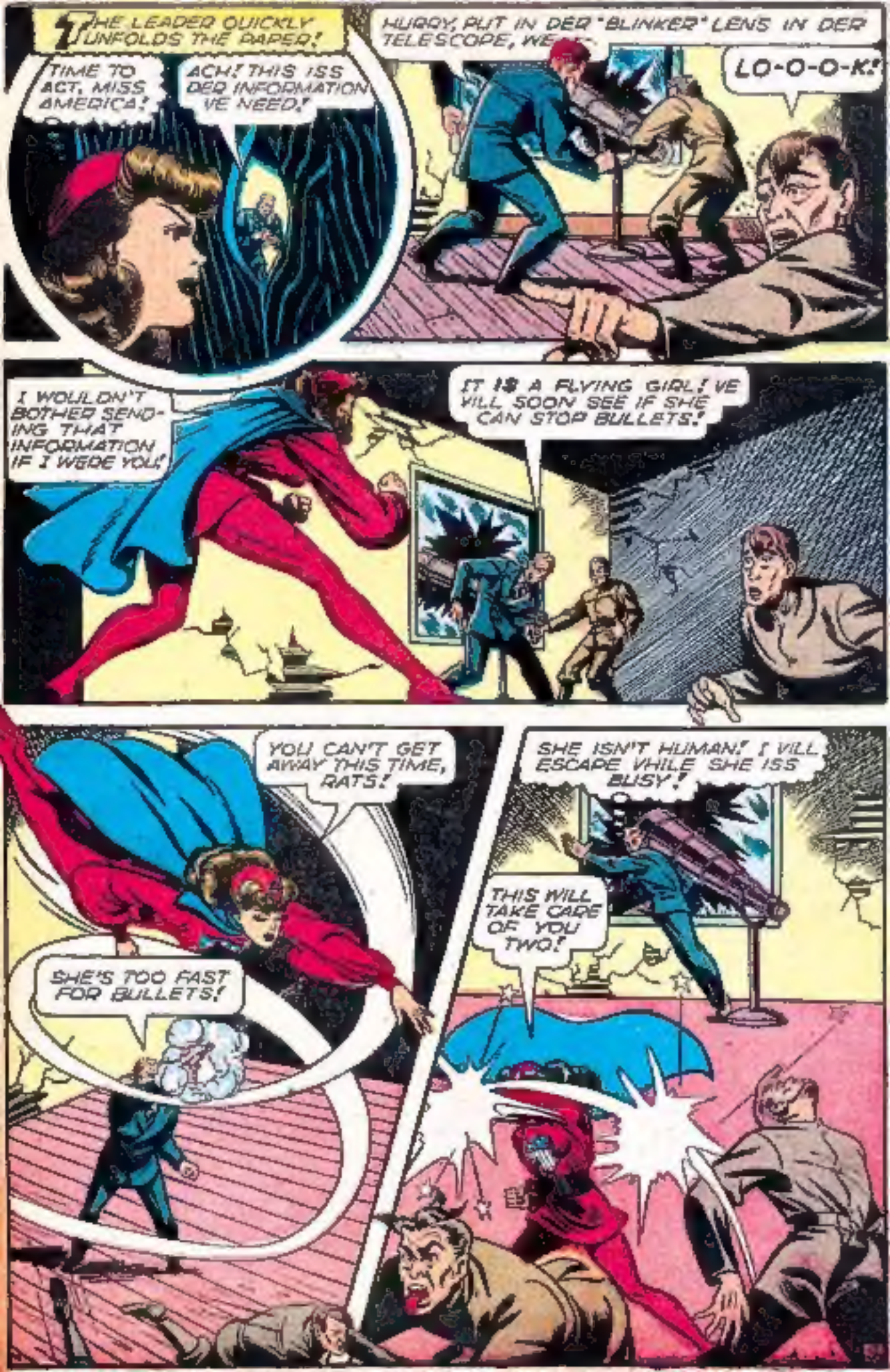
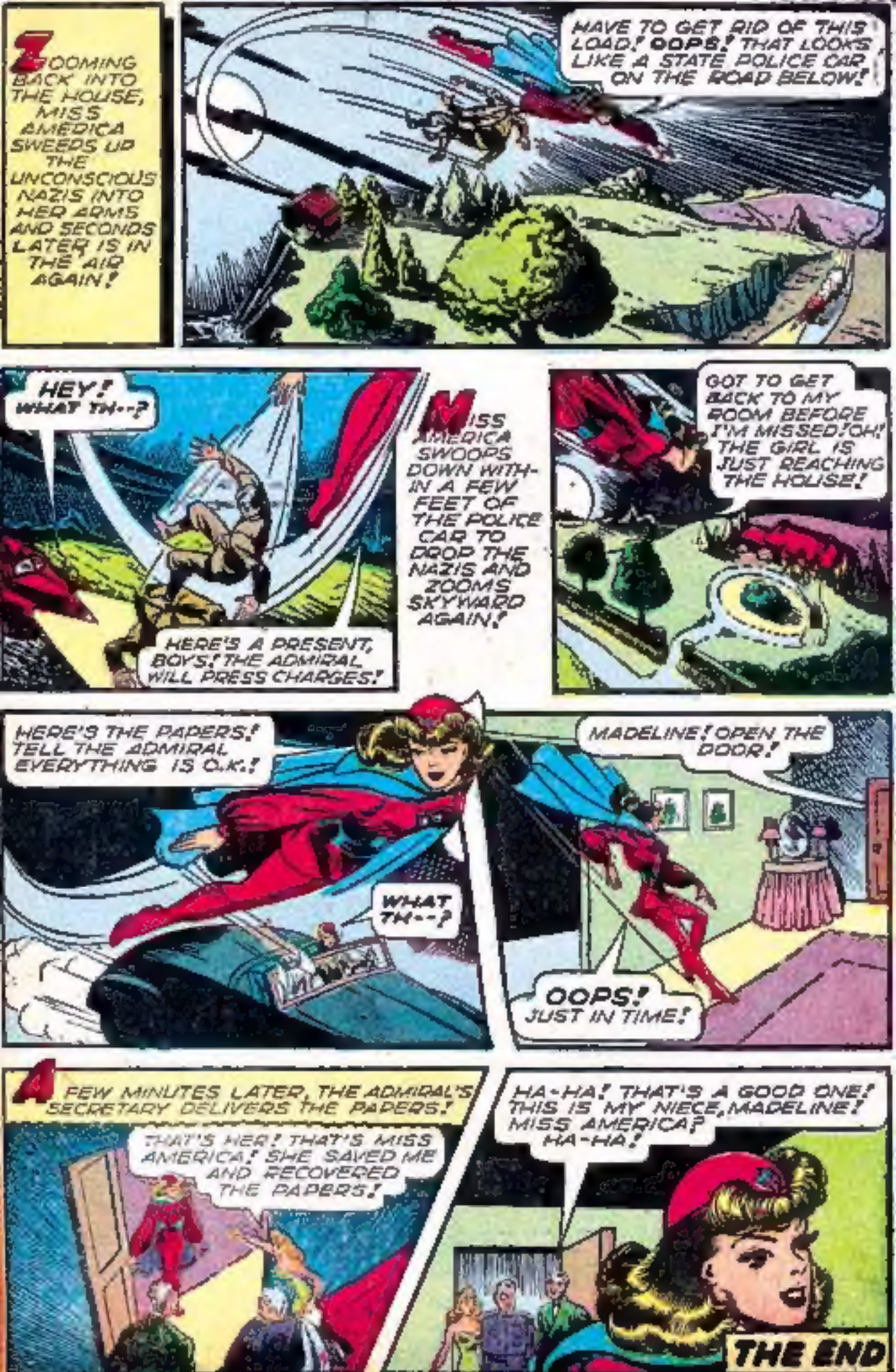

THE LEADER QUICKLY UNFOLDS THE PAPER!
TIME TO ACT, MISS AMERICA!
ACH! THIS ISS DER INFORMATION VE NEED!
HURRY, PUT IN DER "BLINKER" LENS IN DER TELESCOPE, WE
LO-O-O-K!
I WOULDN'T BOTHER SENDING THAT INFORMATION IF I WERE YOU!
IT IS A FLYING GIRL! VE VILL SOON SEE IF SHE CAN STOP BULLETS!
YOU CAN'T GET AWAY THIS TIME, RATS!
SHE'S TOO FAST FOR BULLETS!
SHE ISN'T HUMAN! I VILL ESCAPE VHILE SHE ISS BUSY!
THIS WILL TAKE CARE OF YOU TWO!

I'LL TAKE ALONG THIS PAPER THAT WAS SO INTERESTING AND GO AFTER THE LEADER!
BACK THE SAME WAY YOU CAME OR DO I HAVE TO CARRY YOU!
NO! YOU WILL NEVER GET ME!
TAKEN UNAWARES BY THE SUDDENESS AND FURY OF THE NAZI'S ATTACK, MISS AMERICA GOES DOWN AND IS STUNNED!
I VILL KILL YOU FIRST!
WHAT TH--? OW!
BUT--MISS AMERICA QUICKLY RECOVERS AND AS THE NAZI ATTEMPTS TO KICK HER BODY OFF THE NARROW LEDGE, HER HAND DARTS OUT!
HA! HA! DIS ISS YOUR END--- YOW--!
THAT'S WHAT YOU THINK!
TOO CLOSE FOR COMFORT THAT TIME!
A-A-A-E-E-E!
UGH! NOT A PLEASANT WAY TO DIE-- NOW TO COLLECT THE UNCONSCIOUS NAZIS!


ZOOMING BACK INTO THE HOUSE, MISS AMERICA SWEEPS UP THE UNCONSCIOUS NAZIS INTO HER ARMS AND SECONDS LATER IS IN THE AIR AGAIN!
HAVE TO GET RID OF THIS LOAD! OOPS! THAT LOOKS LIKE A STATE POLICE CAR ON THE ROAD BELOW!
HEY! WHAT TH--?
HERE'S A PRESENT, BOYS! THE ADMIRAL WILL PRESS CHARGES!
MISS AMERICA SWOOPS DOWN WITHIN A FEW FEET OF THE POLICE CAR TO DROP THE NAZIS AND ZOOMS SKYWARD AGAIN!
GOT TO GET BACK TO MY ROOM BEFORE I'M MISSED! OH! THE GIRL IS JUST REACHING THE HOUSE!
HERE'S THE PAPERS! TELL THE ADMIRAL EVERYTHING IS O.K.!
WHAT TH--?
MADELINE! OPEN THE DOOR!
OOPS! JUST IN TIME!
A FEW MINUTES LATER, THE ADMIRAL'S SECRETARY DELIVERS THE PAPERS!
THAT'S HER! THAT'S MISS AMERICA! SHE SAVED ME AND RECOVERED THE PAPERS!
HA-HA! THAT'S A GOOD ONE! THIS IS MY NIECE, MADELINE! MISS AMERICA? HA-HA!
THE END